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IN ACTION COMICS
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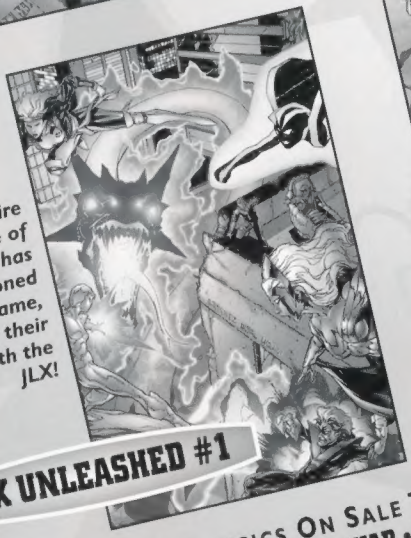
# ONE NAME. ONE UNIVERSE. ONE MORE TIME.

## BAT-THING #1

Part bat. Part thing. The Bat-Thing is a winged nightmare, exacting a terrible revenge on those responsible for his... ITS origin!

## SPIDER-BOY TEAM-UP #1

It was only a matter of time! The Arach-Kid meets those titanic teens of tomorrow—The Legion of Galactic Guardians of 2099!



The Hellfire League of Injustice has just summoned Fin Fang Flame, reigniting their war with the JLX!

## JLX UNLEASHED #1

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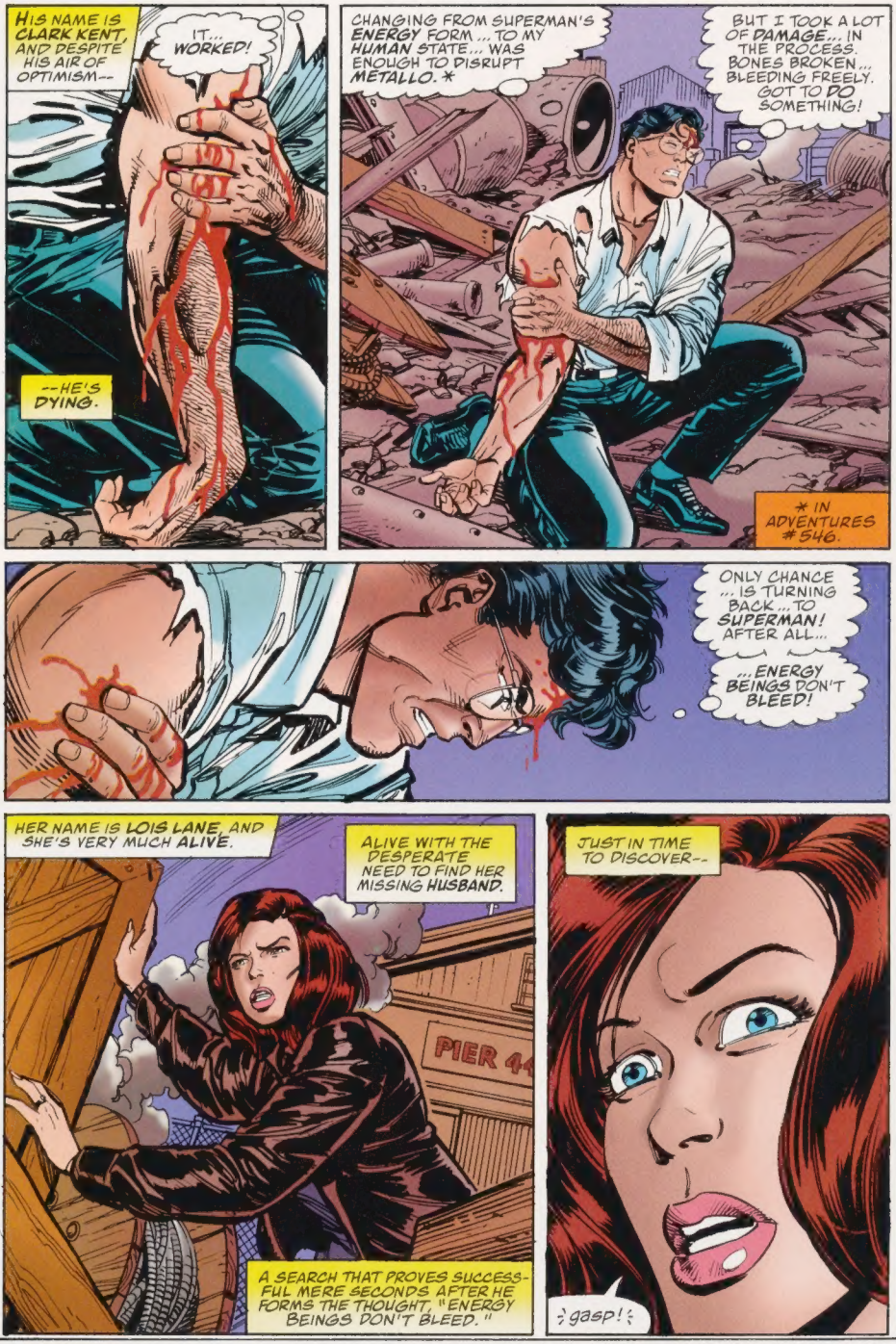
HIS NAME IS CLARK KENT, AND DESPITE HIS AIR OF OPTIMISM--
IT... WORKED!
--HE'S DYING.
CHANGING FROM SUPERMAN'S ENERGY FORM... TO MY HUMAN STATE... WAS ENOUGH TO DISRUPT METALLO. *
BUT I TOOK A LOT OF DAMAGE... IN THE PROCESS. BONES BROKEN... BLEEDING FREELY. GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
* IN ADVENTURES #546.
ONLY CHANCE... IS TURNING BACK... TO SUPERMAN! AFTER ALL...
...ENERGY BEINGS DON'T BLEED!
HER NAME IS LOIS LANE, AND SHE'S VERY MUCH ALIVE.
ALIVE WITH THE DESPERATE NEED TO FIND HER MISSING HUSBAND.
PIER 44
A SEARCH THAT PROVES SUCCESSFUL MERE SECONDS AFTER HE FORMS THE THOUGHT, "ENERGY BEINGS DON'T BLEED."
JUST IN TIME TO DISCOVER--
;gasp!;

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--HOW HORRIBLY WRONG HE IS!
CLARK!!
THE SINS OF CHANGE
DAVID MICHELINIE writer
TOM GRUMMETT & DENIS RODIER - artists
BILL OAKLEY letterer
GLENN WHITMORE colorist
DIGITAL CHAMELEON color separations
MIKE McAVENNIE associate editor
JOEY CAVALIERI editor
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

LOIS? I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND--!
JUST TAKE IT EASY!
YOUR PANIC IS CREATING AN ADRENALINE EFFECT, MAKING YOU "BLEED" FASTER!
TRY TO CALM DOWN!
NEVER ANTICIPATED THIS!
G-GUESS I CARRY PHYSICAL DAMAGE ALONG WHEN I CHANGE TO ENERGY!
BUT THAT ENERGY IS STILL YOU! YOU CONTROL IT!
YES... OF COURSE!
HAVE TO CONCENTRATE... FOCUS INWARD...
...SOLIDIFY...
...AND...
...HEAL!

# MASSIVE
# CHISELED
# RIPPED

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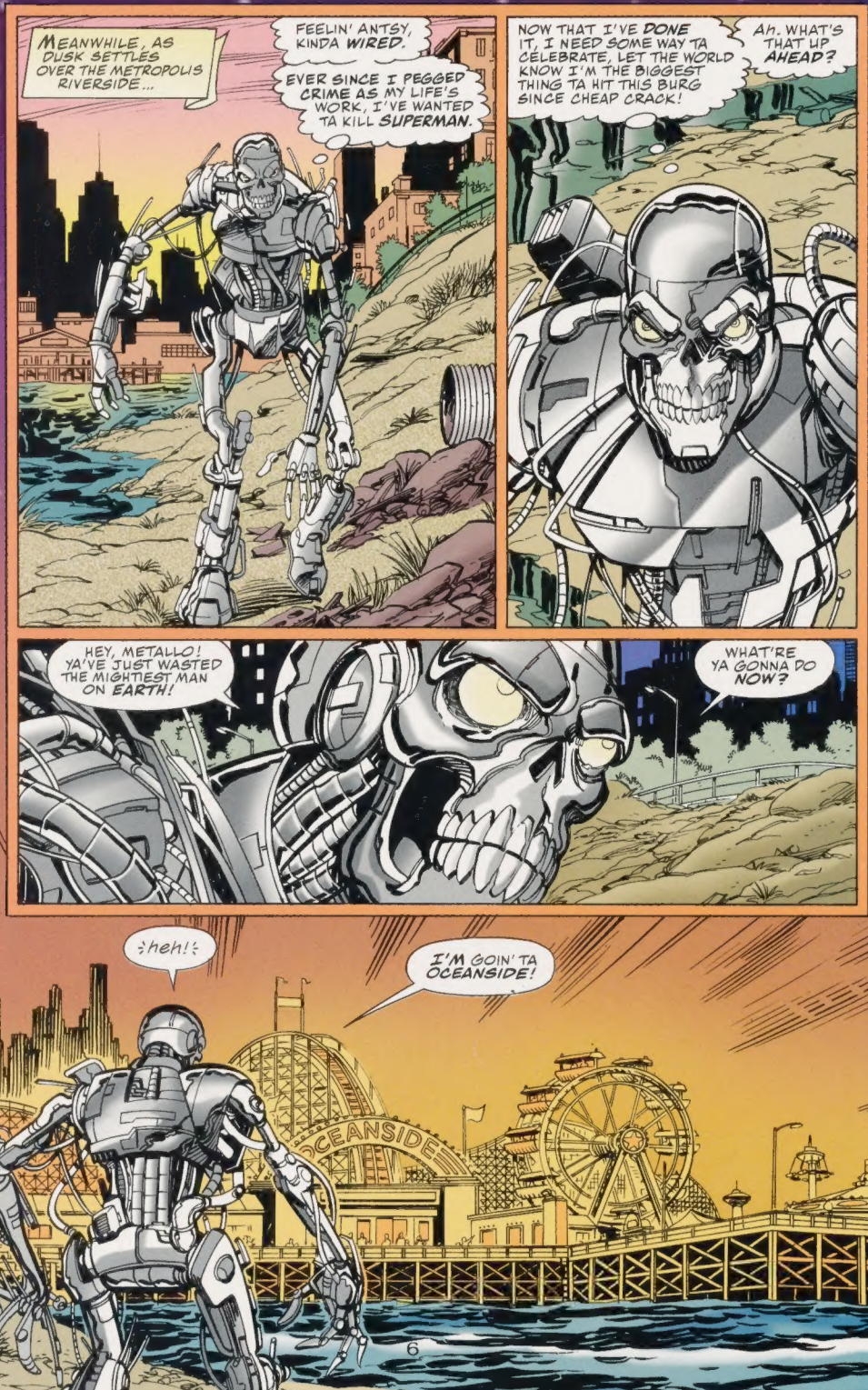
DID IT! CONTAINMENT SUIT, BROKEN ARM, ALL LIKE NEW AGAIN!
THANKS, LOIS. SOMETIMES YOUR LEVEL HEAD IS MY GREATEST STRENGTH.
NOW THAT I'M INTACT AGAIN, I'D BETTER GET GOING.
AFTER METALLO, OR THAT HORN-HEADED GUY?
THE ONE THE MEDIA CALLS "SCORN"?
NONE OF THE ABOVE!
FOR NOW, NEITHER POSES AN IMMEDIATE THREAT.
BUT TO HAVE A CHANCE OF STOPPING EITHER IN THE FUTURE--
--I NEED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MYSELF.
YOU'RE GOING TO PROFESSOR HAMILTON?
NO. LISTENING TO THEORY WOULD TAKE TOO LONG. I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE--
--WHO'S ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THIS!
KA-RACK!


MEANWHILE, AS DUSK SETTLES OVER THE METROPOLIS RIVERSIDE...
FEELIN' ANTSY, KINDA WIRED.
EVER SINCE I PEGGED CRIME AS MY LIFE'S WORK, I'VE WANTED TA KILL SUPERMAN.
NOW THAT I'VE DONE IT, I NEED SOME WAY TA CELEBRATE, LET THE WORLD KNOW I'M THE BIGGEST THING TA HIT THIS BURG SINCE CHEAP CRACK!
AH. WHAT'S THAT UP AHEAD?
HEY, METALLO! YA'VE JUST WASTED THE MIGHTIEST MAN ON EARTH!
WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO NOW?
:heh!:
I'M GOIN' TA OCEANSIDE!
OCEANSIDE

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id

NINTENDO 64

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WHILE IN A LONESOME, STILL CORNER OF CENTENNIAL PARK...
THANKS FOR LISTENING, RAY.
YOUR ANSWERING THAT CALL I SENT THROUGH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE MEANS A LOT.
LIFE'S KINDA HECTIC RIGHT NOW, SUPERMAN, BUT I'M HAPPY TO SPARE A FEW MINUTES IF IT'LL HELP.
AND FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, YOU CAN USE A LOT OF HELP!
IT'S JUST SO FRUSTRATING!
LIKE LEARNING HOW TO WALK ALL OVER AGAIN!
I SEEM TO BE MADE OF ENERGY NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY, OR EVEN HOW TO USE THE POWERS THIS... "MUTATION" GIVES ME.
AND SINCE YOU'RE MADE OF ENERGY, AND HAD TO LEARN TO COPE WITH THAT, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT.

"INSIGHT"? YEAH.
"ANSWERS"? I WISH! I DON'T EVEN HAVE ALL OF THOSE FOR MYSELF! BUT...
...IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU MAY STILL BE IN A TRANSITION PERIOD, BETWEEN YOUR HUMAN FORM AND THIS NEW ENERGY STATE.
THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY YOU COULD ONLY "ZAP" FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER AT FIRST, BUT NOW YOU CAN ZAP OR FLY.
REEEEALLY, REALLY FAST!
IT SEEMS TO BE A MATTER OF INCREASING CONTROL OVER WHAT YOU'VE BECOME.
BUT MY CONTAINMENT SUIT IS FABRIC.
HOW DO I MAKE IT DISAPPEAR, OR CHANGE INTO WHATEVER I WANT?
WELL, BASIC SCIENCE SAYS YOU CAN'T CREATE OR DESTROY ENERGY--BUT YOU CAN ALTER IT.
MAYBE YOU MANIPULATE ELECTRONS THAT TOUCH YOUR "SKIN," RE-FORM THEM INTO WHAT YOU IMAGINE?
MAYBE?

COULD BE. I KNOW I'VE LEARNED TO FOCUS ENOUGH TO BECOME HUMAN AGAIN.
IT'S TOUGH, LIKE CLICKING ON A STUBBORN LIGHT SWITCH--
--BUT IT STAYS ON UNTIL I CONSCIOUSLY WILL MYSELF TO CHANGE BACK.
THE BIG PROBLEM IS--
--WHENEVER I'M HUMAN I CAN ACTUALLY BE HURT, MAYBE EVEN KILLED!
WHY?!?
MAYBE YOU'RE TOO GOOD AT THIS. IN YOUR MIND, YOU SEE ALL HUMANS AS VULNERABLE CREATURES YOU NEED TO DEFEND.
SO WHEN YOU BECOME ONE YOURSELF, YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS MIND CREATES A TRUE, VULNERABLE HUMAN.
OR MAYBE IT TAKES SO MUCH WILL TO CHANGE, THERE'S NONE LEFT TO PROTECT YOU. LIKE I SAID: I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.
BUT HANG IN THERE. I LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT YOU CAN'T DENY WHAT YOU ARE.
USE IT, WORK WITH IT, ACCEPT IT. BECAUSE IF YOU FIGHT IT--
--YOU'RE ONLY FIGHTING YOURSELF.

INTERLUDE: SUPERMAN'S SECRET FORTRESS, BURIED DEEP IN THE ANTARCTIC WASTES...
...WHERE THE MINIATURIZED, BOTTLE-BOUND CITY OF KANDOR--
--TREMBLES IN THE THROES OF A SAVAGE CIVIL WAR!
HURRY, CERIZAH!
GATHER YOUR THINGS! WE MUST EVACUATE THE HALL OF ELDERS BEFORE IT'S BROUGHT DOWN AROUND OUR HEADS!
I JUST HOPE YOUR HOTHEADED BROTHER IS HAPPY NOW!
BUT, FATHER--! CERITAK IS A REBEL, NOT A WARMONGER! HE ONLY WANTED FREEDOM!
HIS DISAPPEARANCE PROVED THAT TOLOS WATCHES OVER US NO LONGER! IF THAT ISN'T WHAT CERITAK WANTED, WHY ISN'T HE TRYING TO STOP THIS? WHERE IS HE?
NO ONE KNOWS. S-SOME EVEN SAY HE'S...
...DEAD.

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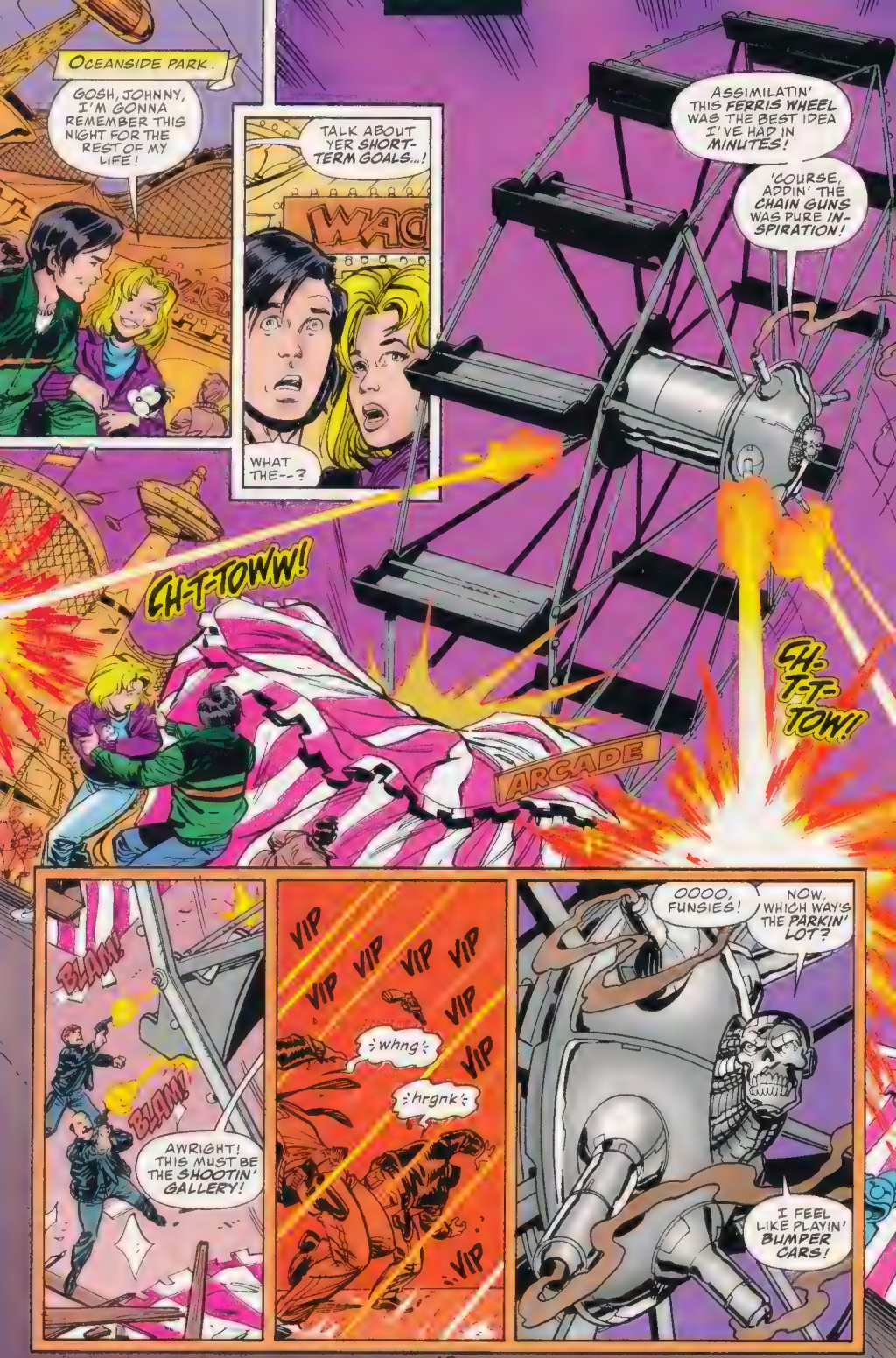
SU-PER-MAN!
THAT WORD, AND THE EMPATHIC PULSES LINKED TO IT, HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE, WHERE HE AT LAST FINDS THE OBJECT OF THAT VISCERAL PULL.
THOUGH, ALAS...
KA-RACK!
...A MICROSECOND TOO LATE!
HRRARRGHH!
SPLASH!
BUT WHILE RAGE IS PROFOUND, IT SUBSIDES QUICKLY.
NEED RISES ONCE MORE...
...AND IT WILL NOT BE DENIED!


OCEANSIDE PARK.
GOSH, JOHNNY, I'M GONNA REMEMBER THIS NIGHT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
TALK ABOUT YER SHORT-TERM GOALS...!
WHAT THE--?
ASSIMILATIN' THIS FERRIS WHEEL WAS THE BEST IDEA I'VE HAD IN MINUTES!
'COURSE, ADDIN' THE CHAIN GUNS WAS PURE INSPIRATION!
CH-T-TOWW!
CH-T-T-TOW!
ARCADE
BLAM!
BLAM!
AWRIGHT! THIS MUST BE THE SHOOTIN' GALLERY!
VIP
:whng:
:hrgnk:
OOOO, FUNSIES!
NOW, WHICH WAY'S THE PARKIN' LOT?
I FEEL LIKE PLAYIN' BUMPER CARS!

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AT THAT MOMENT, IN MIDTOWN...
CLARK?! WHERE THE BLAZES--
--HAVE YOU BEEN?
"LATE"?! FRANKLIN STERN'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU FOR DAYS--
HI, RON. SORRY I'M A LITTLE LATE.
--ALTERNATING BETWEEN CALLING IN THE CAVALRY AND ALERTING THE FIRING SQUAD!
PERRY EVEN FILLED IN FOR A WHILE--
--TILL HE GOT A MESSAGE FROM HIS DOCTOR AND HAD TO LEAVE. WE NEED YOU, CLARK.
SORRY, RON. THINGS HAVE BEEN KIND OF... HECTIC.
IS LOIS AROUND?
SHE'S AT THE HOSPITAL CHECKING ON DIRK ARMSTRONG'S DAUGHTER.
DON'T WORRY, ASHBURY'S OKAY-- A PHYSICAL EXAM IS JUST S.O.P. AFTER A KIDNAPPING. NOW, ABOUT YOU--!

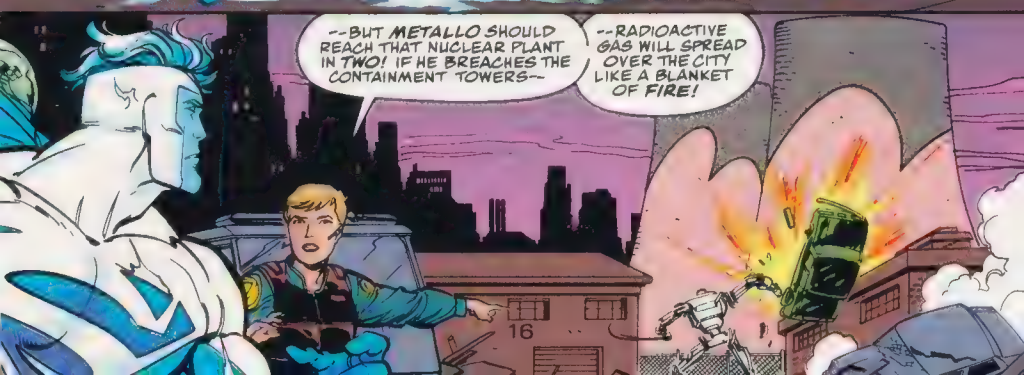
HEY, TROUPE! BOSS WANTS YOU DOWN AT OCEANSIDE PARK, A.S.A.P.!
METALLO'S TEARIN' THE PLACE APART!
OH LORD!
SORRY, CLARK. WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH--
--THIS...
"...LATER?"
KA-RENGH!
ASSIMILATIN' THOSE BEAMERS AN' AUDIS GAVE ME JUST THE PUNCH I WAS LOOKIN' FOR!

SO WE WERE HIKING TO THIS REALLY COOL CAMPSITE FOR A BOWL OF CAP'N CRUNCH!!
CAP'N CRUNCH
WHEN WE CAME TO THIS WEIRD LOOKING BRIDGE!
THEN THE CAP'N DROPPED IN AND YELLED "JUST THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT AND GO FOR IT!"
GOTTA HAVE THAT CRUNCH!
YUM!
ALL MINE!
THE THOUGHT OF THAT SWEET DELICIOUS CRUNCH GOT US RIGHT OVER THAT BRIDGE!
THAT'S HOW WE GOT TO OUR AWESOME CAMPSITE AND OUR HUGE BOWLS OF CAP'N CRUNCH® CEREAL!
YOU AND THE CAP'N MAKE IT HAPPEN!
CRUNCH!
CAP'N CRUNCH

HNH? SIRENS?
BADGE-TOTIN' PARTY POOPERS WOULD HAVE TA BUTT IN!
TARGET THE HEAD AND CHEST!
FIRE AT WILL!
HNGF
SPECIAL CRIME UNIT'S PLAYIN' ROUGH!
I CAN FEEL THAT!
IF I WANNA TAG-TEAM IT WITH THIS BUNCH, I'M GONNA NEED MORE JUICE!
HEY, HEY! TALK ABOUT YER A-TICKET RIDES...!
SCU 15

WHILE ELSEWHERE...
PERRY! I--I CALLED THE PLANET, BUT THEY SAID YOU'D LEFT! THEY SAID--
--YOU WENT TO SEE DOCTOR SMOOT! DARLING, W-WHAT IS IT?
I CAME HOME TO TELL YOU IN PERSON, ALICE-- THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF THING ONE LIKES TO DO OVER THE PHONE. BUT FIRST...
...I THINK YOU'D BETTER SIT DOWN.

KA-RACK!
LT. SAWYER! WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
BAD AND GETTING WORSE, SUPERMAN!
IT'LL TAKE ANOTHER THREE MINUTES TO GET THESE BATTLESUITS ONLINE--


--BUT METALLO SHOULD REACH THAT NUCLEAR PLANT IN TWO! IF HE BREACHES THE CONTAINMENT TOWERS--
--RADIOACTIVE GAS WILL SPREAD OVER THE CITY LIKE A BLANKET OF FIRE!

DON'T HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH, HEAT-VISION OR CONTROLLED FLIGHT, BUT WHAT DID THE RAY SAY?
ACCEPT WHAT I AM... USE WHAT I'VE GOT?
AND WHAT I'VE GOT IS...A TRACTOR BEAM!
HNH? SOMETHIN' HOLDIN' ME BACK?
YOU?!?
YOU GOT MORE LIVES THAN A LITTER O' ALLEY CATS!
SO I GUESS I'LL HAFTA TAKE 'EM ALL!
ONE BY ONE!
SHAZZAZSH!
MORPHED INTO A MISSILE, RODE THE TRACTOR BEAM BACK TO ME!
DISPERSED MY ENERGY WITH AN ELECTRONIC PULSE!
HAVE TO CONCENTRATE... PULL MYSELF BACK TOGETHER!

ALL UNITS ONLINE! LET'S GO!
WITH BIG BLUE IN THE PICTURE AGAIN--
--I'D BETTER BULK UP!
WHAT THE--?!
WHRRZZZ
BAIL OUT, BONZO! THIS MONKEY CART'S GOT A NEW PILOT!
SCU
AN' I'M BRINGIN' YER FRIENDS ALONG WITH ME!
K-CHUNG!
WHRZZ!!NG!
ALMOST ...ME... AGAIN!

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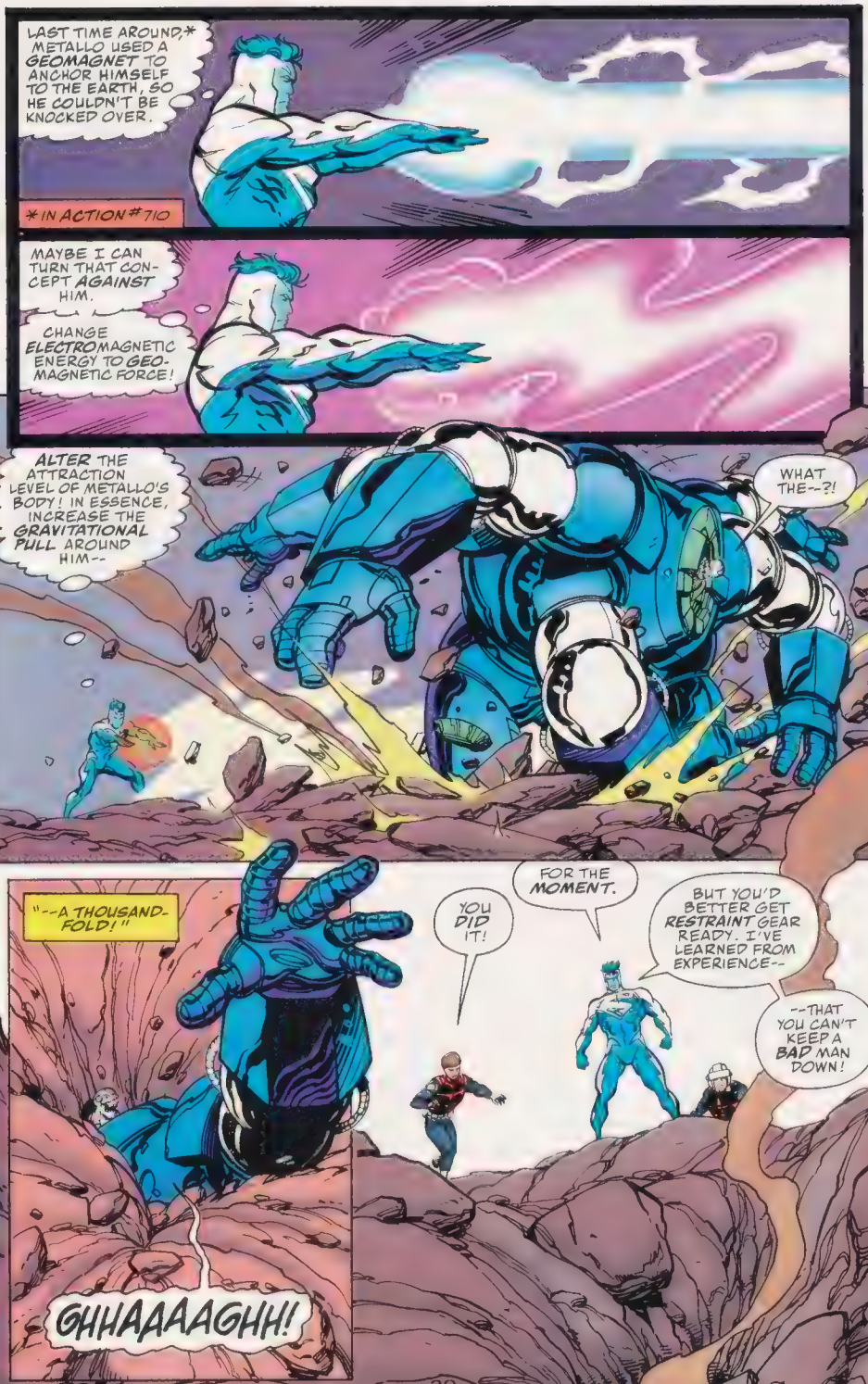
SSMA1

APPARENTLY--
--JUST IN TIME!
METROPOLIS
M.P.D.
E.C.U.
OUTTA THE WAY, BUG!
CH-CHOOM!
SOLID PROJECTILES PASSING THROUGH ME!
BUT METALLO'S ON THE MOVE!
HAVE TO USE THE TRACTOR BEAM, KEEP HIM AWAY FROM--
NO! HE'S GAINED TOO MUCH MASS! CAN'T HOLD HIM BACK!
IF HE REACHES THOSE TOWERS, THOUSANDS WILL DIE! I CAN'T--!
EASY, CLARK. PANIC DOESN'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
THINK.
REMEMBER WHAT THE RAY SAID ABOUT CHANGING ENERGY.


LAST TIME AROUND,* METALLO USED A GEOMAGNET TO ANCHOR HIMSELF TO THE EARTH, SO HE COULDN'T BE KNOCKED OVER.
*IN ACTION #710
MAYBE I CAN TURN THAT CONCEPT AGAINST HIM.
CHANGE ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY TO GEOMAGNETIC FORCE!
ALTER THE ATTRACTION LEVEL OF METALLO'S BODY! IN ESSENCE, INCREASE THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL AROUND HIM--
WHAT THE--?!
"--A THOUSAND-FOLD!"
GHHAAAAGHH!
YOU DID IT!
FOR THE MOMENT.
BUT YOU'D BETTER GET RESTRAINT GEAR READY. I'VE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE--
--THAT YOU CAN'T KEEP A BAD MAN DOWN!

# WATCH this space

No. 42

**MEAT LOAFERS:** How to pass the winter in Maine... For **Paul Pelletier**, penciller of **SUPERBOY & THE RAVERS**, you go out "meatin'." That's where you toss slices of **luncheon meat** on people's windshields and it's so cold it freezes to the glass. No, we are NOT **recommending** this practice! This is **wrong**! It's just that we can't help wondering what people's **faces** look like when an ice-slice of **Pimento Loaf** stares them in the face on a frigid March morning. (Hey, speaking of S-Boy, we wuz just **wondering**... if Superman got a **new** costume, does that mean the Kid gets to wear his **old** one? He thinks so, this week in **S&TR** #91)

**FOLD, SPINDLE AND GET MAD:** And speaking of that heinous new uniform... this month's **MAD** Magazine (#357 — CHEAP!) has a "Fold-In" of special interest to us DCusters. Painted by **Al Jaffe**, it makes a typically pointed fashion statement concerning DC's superest of super-characters. MAD editors **Nick Meglin** and **John Ficarra** brought the painting up to **Mike Carlin**'s office to rub their latest gag in his face. And only after several attempts to **fold the painting** did Mike decide to **wait** until the gag was **printed** on easily-creased **paper** — as opposed to the **hard-to-bend**, triple-thick **illustration board**. Mr. Jaffe was relieved... and Mike's still wondering what the joke will be. (Duh!)

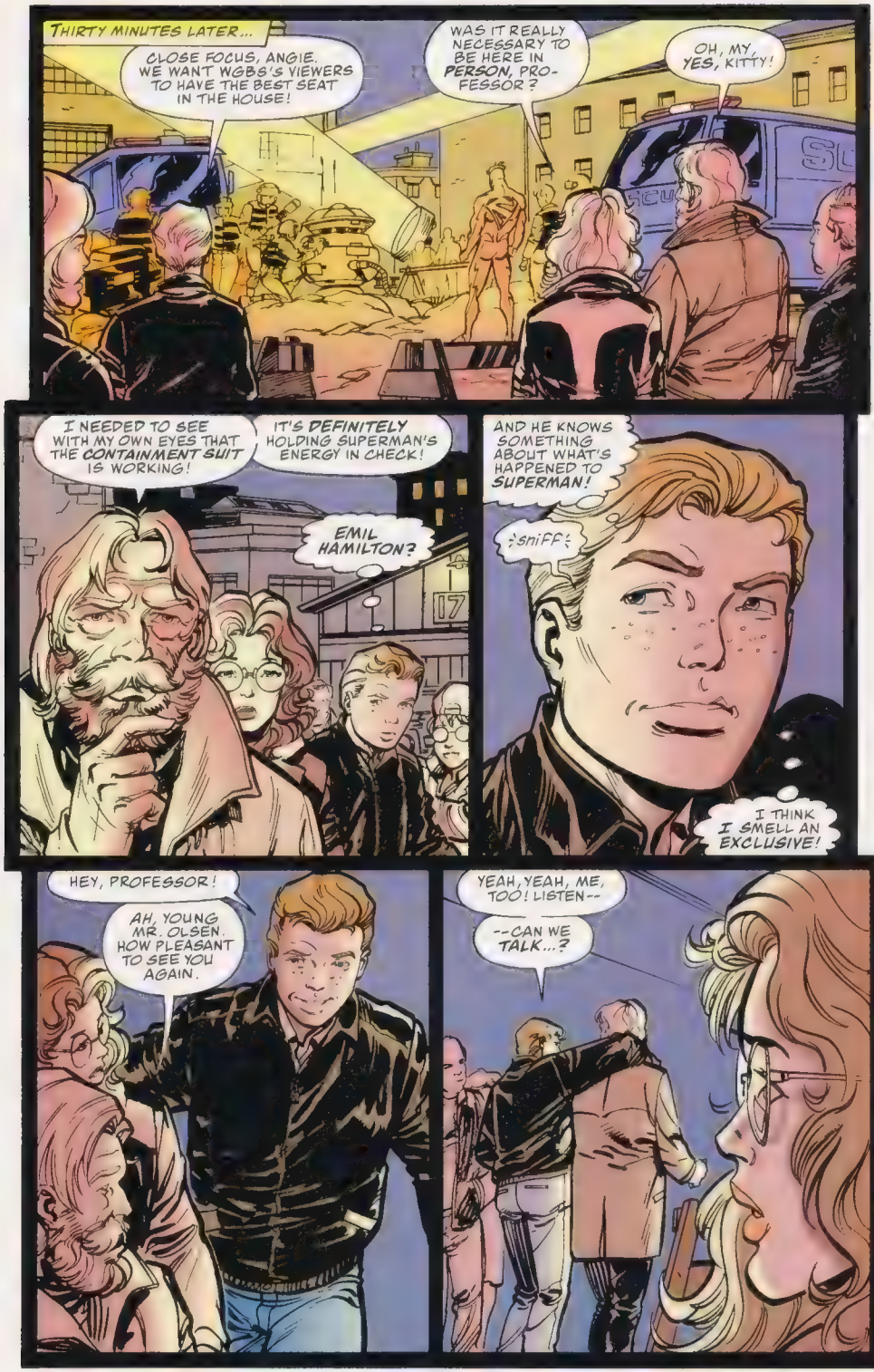
**THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT:** **Tom Simmons**, inker on the new book XERO — about a black assassin who's [illegible] by the [illegible] masqueraded [illegible] (that's him on the right) — was in the DC offices for the first time recently. XERO penciller **Chris Cross** liked Tom's work so much he said he'd hug Simmons if he ever came to NYC. A native of New Mexico, Tom was somewhat taken aback when, in editor **Dan Thorsland**'s office, the 6' 7" 250-lb. Cross attempted to honor his promise. Tom Simmons went back to New Mexico and is still inking XERO (who said there are no happy endings anymore?).

**THE EDITOR STRIKES BACK:** DC's newest full-fledged editor, **Eddie Berganza**, took his family to see the recently rereleased **first** STAR WARS movie. Afterwards, son **Matthew** asked if they were staying to see THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. These kids today!

**BE STILLER OUR HEARTS:** Ever wonder what it would be like to have **your** comic-book story idea heard by a real live (or as **near**-to-lifelike as we could find) comic-book editor? Well, this Saturday (**March 29**, 1997— check yer local listings, like we hadda tell ya **that**) the **Sci-Fi Channel**'s "**Anti-Gravity Room**" will show everyone exactly how NOT to pitch a story idea to DC Comics! The aforementioned Mike Carlin heard a comic **pitch** from **Ben Stiller** (yup... the "**Reality Bites**," "**Flirting With Disaster**," "**The Ben Stiller Show**" Ben Stiller) and the comic-book-oriented TV show was there! We won't tell you **how** the pitch went— 'cause that'll **ruin** the surprise for you on Saturday (but it's pretty safe ta say that Ben's **next movie** will be **coming** to a theater near you **soon**— and Carlin's gonna hafta **pay** the full **$8.50** ta see it)!

**THIS JUST IN:** There will be **no** DCUniverse titles published by DC Comics next week! So you're advised to **find another universe** to visit during **April Fools' Week**! (May we humbly suggest that if ya can't beat 'em— you **AMALGAM**!)

***READ THIS WEEK!*** **ACTION COMICS #733** — power advice from The Ray ■ **AZRAEL/ASH (this week?)** — saving NYC from the demongod Surtr ■ **BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #94** — Hell-evator! ■ **CATWOMAN #45** — "Nine Deaths of the Cat" ■ **THE FLASH #125!** — Major Disasterous ■ **HITMAN #14** — bait for Zombie Fish!? ■ **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #92** — Trapped in a time before video games ■ **ROBIN #41** — Who guest-stars? We don't want to Spoiler the surprise ■ **SCARE TACTICS #6** — Fang's family, they're kreepier and kookier ■ **THE SPECTRE #53!!!** ■ **SUPERBOY & THE RAVERS #9** (see "Meat Loafers" blurb) ■ **THE TEEN TITANS #6** — Darker Nemesis ■ **WONDER WOMAN #121** — are all Amazons reverting to clay!? ■ **XERO #1!!!**


THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
CLOSE FOCUS, ANGIE. WE WANT WGBS'S VIEWERS TO HAVE THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!
WAS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO BE HERE IN PERSON, PROFESSOR?
OH, MY, YES, KITTY!
I NEEDED TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THAT THE CONTAINMENT SUIT IS WORKING!
IT'S DEFINITELY HOLDING SUPERMAN'S ENERGY IN CHECK!
EMIL HAMILTON?
AND HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN!
:sniFF:
I THINK I SMELL AN EXCLUSIVE!
HEY, PROFESSOR!
AH, YOUNG MR. OLSEN. HOW PLEASANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YEAH, YEAH, ME, TOO! LISTEN--
--CAN WE TALK...?

ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN, THE NULL-CAGE IS READY!
BRING 'IM UP!
TRACTOR BEAM SHOULD HAVE METALLO BACK ON THE SURFACE IN NO TI--
--HUH? THERE'S THE BATTLESUIT, BUT METALLO'S HEAD IS--
POLICE
"--GONE!"
PLAYIN' IT SMART PAID OFF!
WHEN I POPPED MY SKULL UNIT OFFA THAT BODY, IT BROKE THE CONNECTION WITH THE ULTRA-GRAVITY FIELD!
BUT SUPERMAN'S STOPPED ME TWICE NOW! AN' HE'S GONNA PAY WITH HIS CITY! BY THE TIME THE SUN RISES TOMORROW--
--METROPOLIS IS GONNA BE NOTHIN' BUT PIECES!
CONCLUDED IN MAN OF STEEL #68 -- NEXT WEEK!

# RE: ACTION

DC COMICS
1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

ACTION COMICS #728

Dear Editors:

I loved ACTION COMICS #728. I read it right after reading ACTION #547 (with pencils by the late Curt Swan) and didn't find myself shaking my head at the lower quality of comics today. Indeed, I've never found the Superman books to be disappointing, but this experience solidifies my opinion that they continue to be among the best in the industry. "I Killed Superman" had a great story, great artwork and a plot twist at the end. Even the cover excels. You must stop showing off.

Two brief questions for you:

1) Why not list e-mail addresses with the snail mail address on the letters page? Many conventional magazines list their e-mail addresses on their editorial pages, and some even list the address on the front cover (*National Review*, for example). This would be a tremendous convenience for readers who aren't on AOL.

2) Why is it that in ACTION #547 (from 1983), real geographical locations are used in the story (Krakatos, Egypt, etc.), while in comics published today (not only ACTION), non-existent names such as Bhutran are used? It makes sense to speak of Qurac and other fictitious names for despotic regimes or, as Obi-Wan would say, "hives of scum and villainy," but too many phony names detract from a story. Aside from the fact that the stories in comic books are themselves fiction, is there a deep reason for this?

Thanks again for an entertaining book.

**CALVIN CLEMENS**
MEDINA, OH

*And thank you, Calvin. As for your questions: 1) While we look at the letters that are sent in or ones written on AOL, leaving an e-mail address for everyone to use would probably crash our system all the time. 2) For as long as comics have been published, we've used both real and fictitious cities for our stories, some for the very reasons you discuss. Another reason is that some readers might feel left out thinking that all their heroes hang out in Los Angeles or New York, so we don't pick favorites when we come up with our own. This also helps our creative teams, who would no doubt be flooded with letters about the Empire State Building not being drawn to proper scale. We'd rather concentrate on the stories and characters.*

Hey, Super-People:

I think it's cool that Superman is now powerless. I'd like him to stay that way a while longer, to see how he deals with it. I also think it would look great if you keep him normal and give Lois his powers. Clark could see what Lois was going through.

What I *didn't* like about this issue was the flashback. I thought it was a waste of time and space. You could have explained how Clark learned to lower his heartrate with a few panels. You didn't need to use half the book to explain. I like the way the storyline's going, but just cut out the long flashbacks.

**DOUD OHMER**
COVINGTON, KY

*Y'know, Doud, your letter reminds us of a time when flashbacks were considered cool, such as the old JLA Casebook stories in the original JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. In fact, that reminds us of a different time when...*

*Oh. *Harrumph* Sorry, Doud. We'll watch the flashbacks more closely.*

Dear Men of ACTION:

I've just read ACTION #728, and man, was it great! The artwork and colors by Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier were unbelievable. Not to forget Patrick Martin, who also worked on that fantastic cover.

I really like Clark with that "new" old haircut. When I saw him the first time with long hair, I thought he looked better than ever. But now, as he has his old super-cut back, he seems to be more...well, *super*(man) than ever before.

I liked the drawing of Clark on pages 2 and 3, where he doesn't wear his glasses. Even without his powers, he looks like he could move mountains. Then, on page 4, where he puts his glasses back on, he seems to be a bit fatter (just that bit fatter as he has to differ from Superman), but still angry. That comparison was terrific, but the story topped it all. And thank you that we didn't have to see Clark in his prison throughout, where he suddenly remembers this Bhutran yogi. Instead, we saw a nice side-story, one that showed that not everything has to be settled with brute force.

If you print my letter, please print my address, because I'd like international pen pals. Keep up the good work, and give Clark his powers back; I think he will need them soon.

**MATTHIAS WEISS**
KAPITELSTRASSE 23
51103 COLOGNE
GERMANY

*You're probably right about that, Matthias, especially if it looks to you like Clark's gaining weight (a new ability even we didn't know he had)! And to really impress those international pen pals, we're gonna send you this month's Baldy award, which, incidentally, is completely fat-free!*

Super-Folk:

I can't imagine why, only two issues after the historic Wedding issue, you would put out such a mediocre filler issue as ACTION #728. As soon as I read that Clark could slow his breathing and heart rate, I knew you were going to pull one of the lamest comic-book clichés to get him out of that cell. Little did I suspect, though, that you'd use the "fake death" trick *twice* in one issue. And the whole "escape-from-the-cell-only-to-find-you're-in-outer-space/underneath-an-ocean/on-a-floating-island" routine has been done to death (Mr. Michelinie used the same gag in an old *Iron Man* story, as I recall).

What's really ridiculous is that, in the midst of all this wedding hype, you give us a dull, purposeless flashback, and only *one* page of Lois Lane. ACTION COMICS #728 was a lame effort, all around.

**PAUL WEISSBURG**
ROSINAGASSE, AUSTRIA

PS. "Honeymoon in Handcuffs," huh? I think I rented that once...

*Maybe you didn't like the ol' "fake death" trick, Paul, but what'd you think of Clark's new ability to make himself look fatter...?*

Dear Editors:

Excellent—I get *two* stories in one with ACTION COMICS #728! Clark and Lois sure are having one lousy honeymoon! Rifle shots at Lois, Clark getting shot in the arm, no powers for Superman, and then Clark being held captive... What's next?

Rajiv really has me teed off, doing all this to seek his madman's revenge against Lois. He definitely has the mentality of the terrorists who strike fear into the hearts of mankind, from the IRA to the PLO—it's always about revenge.

I was surprised to find two different types of terrorists mentioned in this comic, the next one being Rance Bowie, who's in it for self-glory (shades of the Unabomber). Rance has the mentality of the assassin Jesse James, who was nothing but a callous coward.

Metropolis is a city always on the brink of disaster, a good place for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to have a permanent office. In this issue alone, bombs are going off, a helicopter is ready to crash, traffic has gone haywire and vehicles are in disarray. I just want to know why I haven't been called to Metropolis. As a member of the California Department of Health Services, I've worked only two disasters—the Northridge Earthquake, and the late winter storms of '95 for FEMA Augment, DRT (Disaster Response Team) as a reserve—and I'm waiting for my call to Metropolis.

Sometimes I wonder if Superman doesn't attract all the disasters himself. He's like a big magnet for bad guys who want destroy him and all of Metropolis. Luckily, Superman's a quick thinker and is able to outsmart most of the villains he comes in contact with. I like the way he tricked Rajiv's gang with the fake suicide and the yogi breathing technique which made them think he was dead. David Michelinie did a fine job writing this story—it had action and thrills throughout! Now I get to the end and discover Clark is stuck in a sub! The plot thickens.

Thank you for bringing such a good tale to life. Superman only seems to get better and better! Also, I must congratulate Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier on the fine art in this comic. Very well done!

**PAUL DALE ROBERTS**
60 PARKSHORE CIRCLE
SACRAMENTO, CA
SILHOUET@IX.NETCOM.COM

Dear Re:Action:

Regarding ACTION #728, since the letters are still pouring in on the wedding, I thought I'd catch up on my favorite DC hero—the Metropolis taxpayer!

City Hall is wired. An abandoned building is demolished. There's a car crash. A rig goes over the railing of a bridge. The sidewalk has a hole or two...and all because some loser wanted to kill Superman?!

How do the taxpayers of Metropolis cope with all the calamities? And why in the world didn't Lex Luthor ever bring this up before? Can you imagine how much of Luthor's annual income goes toward all that construction work? No wonder he can't stand Superman!

Keep up the demolishingly good work!

**MICHAEL FREEMAN**
WESTERLY, RI

*Okay, all those in favor of either a METROPOLIS I.R.S. or METROPOLIS FEMA mini, say "Aye"...*

*—Mike McAvennie*
*Gotta go. Taxes waiting,*
*Death right behind.*

## COMING ATTRACTIONS:

*IN ONE WEEK:* It's Round Three between the new Superman and Metallo in MAN OF STEEL #68, and trust Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke to blow your socks off in just seven days!

*IN TWO WEEKS:* Booster Gold comes to Metropolis to meet up with the Man *Beyond* Tomorrow in SUPERMAN #124, while Scorn pays a visit to Clark and Lois's apartment. Breakin' and enterin' in fourteen days are Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein!

*IN THREE WEEKS:* The bottle city of Kandor's facing destruction, so the new Big Blue gets "a little help" from the Atom in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #547! Sizin' up the situation in twenty-one days are Karl Kesel, Stuart Immonen and Jose Marzan, Jr.!

*IN FOUR WEEKS:* Between civil unrest and climate problems, Superman and the Atom have *big* problems in li'l ol' Kandor in ACTION COMICS #734! David Michelinie, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier soar to new heights in a mere twenty-eight days!

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*The new Superman flies high with the Ray on this month's cover, brought to you by Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier and Patrick Martin!*

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